

WEATHER.

Unsettled tonight and Sunday, probably with rain; somewhat warmer tonight.

Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: High, 36, at 4 p.m. yesterday; low, 28, at 1:30 a.m. today.

For full report see page 11.

No. 19,806.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1914—TWENTY PAGES.

ONE CENT.

SUBSTANTIAL AND HIGHER RATES

Railroad Officials Generally Express Satisfaction at Increase Granted by I. C. C.

WILL RELIEVE DISTRESS BY MAKING UP DEFICIT

Western Roads Should Feel Encouraged in Pending Applications, Says President of Rock Island.

NEW YORK, December 19.—That railroads would be substantially aided by the increased freight rates granted yesterday by the interstate commerce commission was the opinion generally expressed by railroad officials in statements made public here today.

President L. F. Loree of the Delaware and Hudson railroad stated that the rate increase will relieve the distress of the railroads by making up a deficit in their earnings. He did not believe, however, that it will give railroads any additional purchasing power.

President A. H. Smith of the New York Central lines and Howard Elliott, president of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, expressed the opinion that the commission in granting the rate increase had recognized the needs of the railroads and the necessity of increasing freight rates.

Needs of Roads Recognized.

He said: "As nearly as I can ascertain from preliminary reports, the interstate commerce commission has granted an increase on, perhaps, a little more than one-half of the tonnage, but to the extent that the increase has been granted it will help the railroad situation. It should also promote general public confidence for the future."

"The commission has recognized not only the needs of the railroads, but the effect upon the railroads of the peculiar conditions generally at the present time. The increase granted will not solve the transportation problems of the day, but we are thankful for the help given and will endeavor to make the best possible use of it."

In its broad scope the increase shows, in my opinion, said George F. Brownell, vice president and general solicitor of the Erie railroad, "that the interstate commerce commission has realized that the relief which the commission previously had thought could be gained from other measures than increased freight traffic had been made impossible by the results of the war and existing conditions."

Benefit Seen in Decision.

Several bankers, brokers and men whose interests are allied with the railroads also saw in the decision a beneficial change in the situation. "The decision is a step in the right direction," said George F. Brownell, "and will not doubt be approved by the higher court of public opinion."

W. C. Van Antwerp, a governor of the New York Stock Exchange, said: "The decision is a step in the right direction and will not doubt be approved by the higher court of public opinion."

Should Encourage Western Roads.

CHICAGO, December 19.—H. U. Mudge, president of the Rock Island lines, said the decision should encourage western roads, in view of their pending applications for increased rates.

"Certainly the west needs increases as much as the east," he said. "This particular decision ought to give things up. If the eastern roads begin to buy and sell, the western country will be favorably affected."

William A. Gardner, president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company, said:

"Only by granting the ruling will we have toward granting increases to western roads is whether the latter can present an adequate justification and necessity. I believe it is a reasonable presumption that the decision will be an essential factor in the stimulation of and add a tremendous encouragement to all lines of business. The first effects will be felt in the east and a similar effect would be felt in the west and the return to general prosperity."

Administration Officials Foresee Revival of Trade in Increase to Railroads

The decision of the interstate commerce commission in the eastern advance rate case was highly gratifying to administration officials. It was believed that the action of the commission in granting the railroads the right to advance their freight rate 5 per cent, except upon certain heavy commodities, which comprise a large bulk of the traffic, would pave the way for an immediate revival of prosperity throughout the United States.

The exceptions referred to are coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic moved partly by lake and partly by rail, upon which the commission had heretofore fixed rates adjudged "reasonable."

Official classification territory constitutes the country east of the Mississippi, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers.

President Wilson, it is known, was greatly pleased over the decision, although no formal statement has been given out by him. He expects the decision will have an immediate effect upon the country's economic situation. The president has let it be known all along that he believed improvement of business conditions generally, and to some extent upon additional revenues being provided for the railroads.

As a result of the commission's decision, which was divided 4-3, Chairman Harlan and Commissioner Clements dissenting, it is estimated that the affected roads will be able to add to their annual revenues about \$30,000,000. They had hoped to obtain increases which would give them approximately \$50,000,000 in added revenue annually.

Decision Sequel to Petition.

The decision of the commission was the outgrowth of a petition of the eastern railroads for a reopening of the advanced rate case. The original

BLISS DOES NOT MENTION FIRING OVER U. S. BORDER

Report From Naco, Ariz., However, Tells of American Houses Being Struck.

Stray Bullets Over Border.

NACO, Ariz., December 19.—Stray bullets from the Mexican side crossed the American line Thursday night and early yesterday during the usual bombardment of the border, according to reports from the Mexican combatants being fired across the American border.

He transmitted to Secretary Garrison, although without confirmation, a report that Gov. Maytorena had said he would not resume fire unless fired upon.

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Firing of Listless Sort.

The firing yesterday, however, was of a listless sort. Most of the bullets were aimed at the American side, and the firing was of a listless sort. Most of the bullets were aimed at the American side, and the firing was of a listless sort. Most of the bullets were aimed at the American side, and the firing was of a listless sort.

Infantry Beach Naco.

The 6th Brigade of Infantry, reinforcing the American cavalry troops already here, began to arrive today.

The usual morning bombardment of the Maytorena positions by Gen. Hill was lacking today. A few Mexican shells again fell on the American side.

Three additional camps along the tactical line of defense covering the Mexican border for a distance of five miles were laid out today for the reinforced American troops.

FINISHING DISTRICT BILL

Members Said to Be Unit Against Repealing Half-and-Half Plan of Appropriation.

With the expectation of completing work on the District appropriation bill this evening, the subcommittee of the Senate appropriations committee today continued consideration of that measure, going over the details with Engineer Commissioner Kutz.

While the subcommittee has not taken action on the Johnson amendment repealing the half-and-half plan of appropriating for the District, it was said today that the members of the subcommittee are a unit against that amendment.

Dr. George M. Kober, representing the board of charities, appeared before the committee today to urge that there be included in the bill an item for beginning the construction of the proposed new municipal hospital, to be located on the tract already owned by the District at 14th and Upshur streets. This hospital is to take the place of the Washington Asylum Hospital, which Dr. Kober said today, is entirely inadequate.

WALTER JOHNSON HAS CONFAB WITH GRIFFITH

Special Dispatch to The Star.

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., December 19.—Walter Johnson and Manager Griffith are in conference in Kansas City today, according to an authentic report current in Coffeyville. Griffith wired several days ago he wanted to meet Walter and the latter and his wife left Coffeyville last night for Kansas City.

Collision in New York Harbor.

NEW YORK, December 19.—The steamer Bratsberg, outward bound for Rio de Janeiro, collided with the Greek steamer Themistocles, lying at anchor off quarantine today. Apparently the Themistocles was undamaged. The midship bridge of the Bratsberg was smashed, but after she had stopped and investigated the steamer proceeded on her way.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS.

Senate:

Met at noon.

Secretary L. Fisher, former Secretary of the Interior, testified before the lands committee on the water power site leasing bill.

Efforts to agree upon a vote on the immigration bill January 4 were defeated by objection of Senator O'Gorman.

Hearings were continued on the bill to provide for the independence of the Philippine Islands.

Met at noon.

The army appropriation bill was perfected in committee and debate on the postal bill proceeded on the floor.

B. & O. OFFICIALS SEEK CONFERENCE

Would Effect Meeting With Metropolitan Branch Commuters' Association.

COMPROMISE ON RATE INCREASES IS OBJECT

Suburbanites Collecting Data for Presentation to Interstate Commerce Commission.

Efforts are being made by the Baltimore and Ohio railroad officials to effect a meeting with the officials of the Metropolitan Branch Commuters' Association with a view to compromising the proposed increases in commutation rates recently suspended by the interstate commerce commission pending hearing and investigation.

Officers of the association were approached by the Baltimore and Ohio officials shortly before the commission handed down its decision, and today it became known upon reliable authority that officers of the association had written to the Baltimore and Ohio officials telling them that the association would be glad to meet the railroad's officers to discuss the matter.

However, while the question of a meeting was pending, the commission handed down its decision. It was deemed by the commuters' association, presumably with the idea of effecting a compromise, as was done in the case of the commuters using the Pennsylvania railroad.

To Consider Formal Conference.

Within the next few days there will be a meeting of the executive committee of the commuters' organization, at which time the question of a formal conference with the railroad officials will be discussed and a decision reached. It is declared probable a conference will be held shortly in Baltimore between representatives of the commuters' organization and the railroad officials, but that the commuters would not go there with any idea of prejudicing their case, and to protect that end, the organization official would be much out of place.

It was made plain that the commuters' organization was not formed for the purpose of fighting the railroad, but to protect the interest of the commuters. There is no disposition to be antagonistic toward the roads, and if the case can be settled amicably it seems to be the disposition of the commuters to follow this line.

Increases Averaged 46 Per Cent.

However, in the case of the Baltimore and Ohio it was found that there was an average increase of 46 per cent in the new rates, and this was looked upon by the commission as unreasonable and unjust, and warranting a thorough investigation.

The Metropolitan Branch commuters are losing no time in preparing their case. It was declared today. They are collecting much data for presentation to the commission when a hearing is granted, and when the commission sets a date the commuters will be on the ground with their evidence in an endeavor to prove the rates unreasonable.

TWO BIG JEWEL THEFTS.

New York Police Search for Gems

Valued at \$56,000.

NEW YORK, December 19.—A large reward is being offered here today for the return of jewels valued at more than \$50,000, which were lost by a bride of a few days, who is stopping with her husband at Hollis, Long Island.

The jewels were lost Thursday night while the couple, who refused to disclose their names, were en route in an automobile from a theater in this city to Hollis. The couple are said to be very wealthy and well known in Chicago and Pittsburgh.

The lost jewels consist of a pearl necklace, a diamond sunburst and several rings.

Another loss of jewels was reported today by D. N. Hanson, a woolen merchant of this city, who told the police that a diamond necklace, several rings, a watch and other valuables, worth about \$10,000, had been stolen from his wife's apartment in an uptown hotel Thursday night.

London Court Annuls Death Decree.

LONDON, December 19.—The court of criminal appeal, consisting of the lord chief justice, Lord Reading, and four other justices, has annulled the conviction of Nicholas Ahlers, who, December 10, was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Ahlers, a naturalized Englishman, formerly was German consul in Sunderland borough. He was accused of having aided German reservists to reach their country after the outbreak of the war.



WHAT A LITTLE HUSTLING WILL DO.

War Officially Reported.

German Statement

BERLIN, December 19, by wireless to London, 2:50 p.m.—An official statement was given out in Berlin this afternoon as follows:

"Yesterday there took place a series of hostile attacks in the western arena of the war. The fighting continues at Nieport, Bizschotte and La Basse. We repulsed attacks of the enemy to the west of Lens, east of Albert and west of Nevon."

"On the East Prussian frontier a Russian cavalry attack to the west of Pillkallen was repulsed."

"In Poland the pursuit of the enemy continues."

French Statement

PARIS, December 19, 2:52 p.m.—The French war office this afternoon gave out an official announcement as follows:

"During the day of December 18 we organized in Belgium the territory won from the enemy the evening before to the south of Dixmude, and we advanced our front to the south of the line at Kortekker."

"Our advance to the south of Ypres has been continued over a very difficult and swampy territory."

"From the Lys to the Oise we have progressed in the region of Notre Dame de Consolation, to the south of La Bassée, by more than one kilometer."

"During the past two days we also made progress in the direction of Caraceny, St. Laurent and Blangy."

"In spite of very spirited counter attacks, the positions taken by us December 17 have been retained."

"In the region of Albert, during the night from December 17-18 and during the day of the 18th we advanced under a very violent fire of the enemy, and we reached the barbed-wire entanglements of the second line of German trenches. To the north of Maricourt we were obliged to abandon a trench occupied the night before, and set on fire by the enemy by means of hand grenades."

"Several German trenches have been occupied in the region of Mametz, and in the vicinity of Lihons three violent counter attacks on the part of the Germans have been repulsed."

"In the Champagne the artillery of the enemy showed December 18 increased activity as compared to December 17."

"In the Argonne, in the forest of La Gracrie, we blew up a German undermining trench. Near St. Hubert, the enemy, by a very spirited attack, succeeded in making slight progress."

"From the Meuse to the heights of the Meuse our fire, directed by aviators, demolished two heavy batteries of the enemy and damaged a third battery."

"From the Meuse to the Vosges there is nothing to report. In the Vosges there has been spirited German rifle firing, but no attack."

Austrian Statement

VIENNA, via London, December 19.—The following Austrian official statement has been made public, under date of December 19:

"The beaten Russian main forces are being pursued on the entire battle front 400 kilometers wide (about 250 miles) from Krasno (Gallia) to the mouth of the Bzura river (in Poland, where it empties into the Vistula)."

"The enemy yesterday was driven from his positions north of the Carpathians between Krasno and Zakhlesny. On the lower Donajec river we and our allies are doing battle with the enemy's rear guard."

"In south Poland our advance so far has been made without important fighting. Piotrkow, day before yesterday, and Przedborz, yesterday, were stormed."

"The heroic garrison at Przemyśl has continued further fighting in front of the fortress with success."

"The situation in the Carpathians has not yet substantially changed."

Russian Statement

PETROGRAD, December 19.—The following statement has been issued by the general staff of the Russian army:

"On the left bank of the Vistula an almost complete lull on nearly all of the front has replaced the attacks made by the enemy in the course of the past few days."

"The connection with the advance of part of our troops toward the Bzura river (Russian Poland), and in view of the fact that the Austrians are continually receiving reinforcements in the Carpathians, we have thought fit to rearrange the positions of some of our armies."

"We checked the offensive of the enemy yesterday in western Galicia. On the front between Sunk and Lisko we have succeeded in our offensive and have captured 3,000 prisoners, several guns and mitrailleuses."

MESSUDIAH CARRIED 100 WITH HER TO BOTTOM

ATHENS, via London, December 19, 3:55 a.m.—An official announcement is made here that 100 lives were lost, including some German officers, when the Turkish battleship Messudiah, which was torpedoed by a British submarine, sank in the Dardanelles.

The fact that the Turkish battleship Messudiah had been torpedoed by a British submarine was made public by the British official bureau December 14. The work was accomplished by Lieut. Norman R. Holbrook, in charge of submarine B-11. He took his little ship into the Dardanelles, according to the official statement, and dived under five rows of mines before he destroyed the fatal torpedo into the Messudiah, which was guarding the mine fields.

FRENCH TROOPS CLOTHED FOR A WINTER CAMPAIGN

PARIS, December 19.—The French troops at the front have been supplied by the war office for the coming winter campaign with large quantities of woolen blankets, sweaters, woolen bands to wrap around their bodies and woolen caps, which protect the ears, the neck and the throat.

These winter garments are in addition to the very considerable quantities already knit for the soldiers by the women of France and distributed to them. The government is accumulating reserve supplies of this woolen clothing to replace such articles as get lost or become worn out.

A considerable quantity of this cold-weather equipment was obtained from the United States, and a number of orders still remain to be filled.

Special Features Tomorrow In The Sunday Star

"A MAKER OF WONDER DOLLS," is the title that has been given to a humble woman in Germany, who fashions remarkable likenesses of childhood. They are known the world over, but chiefly among royalty and the very rich.

COL. JOHN McLEERY, veteran of four Christmas periods in war, speaks of what Christmas means to soldiers on the battlefield. The interview is written by ASHMUN BROWN.

CHARLES M. PEPPER writes of "NEUTRAL HOLLAND AND THE WORLD WAR," showing the Netherlands as both a maritime and a colonial power.

"AMERICAN MAKERS OF CHRISTMAS TOYS HAVE PROFITED BY THE EUROPEAN WAR" is the title of an article which will give you considerable information about the Christmas trade in toys.

THE OBSERVER finds out the other side of Christmas presents sent home from the stores by taking a trip or two on a delivery wagon.

STERLING HEILIG writes of interesting women in Switzerland, who are planning Christmas fairs for Belgian refugees. He tells of the vast preparations now being made to bring a little of the Christmas spirit into the holocaust that surrounds Switzerland.

A correspondent at Petrograd studies the Russian soldier at close hand and presents a vivid description of the men in the ranks of the czar's forces.

FRANK G. CARPENTER tells how Chile is developing her far southern territory. He describes the vast stock farms of Tierra del Fuego and a race of savages who go naked in the snow.

"OUR CHRISTMAS SHIPS," by SHERMAN MONTROSE CRAIGER, is an amazing article which shows what has been done by American philanthropists, great and small, to relieve the suffering in Europe.

JOHN LUTHER LONG, the author of "Madame Butterfly," contributes a delightful Christmas story entitled "MARBUSHSUN."

Of course there is a story by SEVELL FORD, "CATCHING UP WITH GERALD" shows what happened when Shorty McCabe and J. Bayard Steele did the sixth deed of kindness as provided by Pyramid Gordon's will.

"THE OTHER THREE" is the pleasing story of a girl who wanted to know. It is written by VERA EDMONDSON.

"THE CHRISTMAS LUTE," by FRANCES IRVIN, shows the magic Yuletide influence of Israel's wonderful voice.

JOHN KENDRICK BANGS, in his "RESUSCITATION OF SANTA CLAUS," brings the Great Christmas Distributor back into line.

AND THESE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE CHRISTMAS FEATURES YOU WILL FIND IN

The Sunday Star

ALLIES ON OFFENSIVE ALONG WESTERN LINE TO RELIEVE RUSSIANS

Attacks in France and Flanders Intended to Prevent Sending of Reinforcements to Poland.

LONDON, December 19, 12:55 p.m.—The co-ordination of military movements in the east and west, which has been observed since the commencement of the war, is now shown in a striking way in the offensive movement of the allies in northern France and Flanders, keeping the Germans engaged and preventing them from sending reinforcements eastward. The allies claim gains in Flanders and France during the past few days, which are said to counterbalance German advances in Poland.

Progress of the allies in the vicinity of La Bassée, where the Germans had clung tenaciously to their positions for so many weeks, is regarded here as particularly noteworthy, as the Germans spear point there had presented an irritating problem.

EXPECT MORE RAPID ADVANCE.

The advance of the allies thus far has been slow, but British military critics expect it to gain impetus.

British and French military writers say that the doubts expressed by them of the correctness of the German announcement that a historic victory had been won over the Russian hosts in Poland are borne out by the apparent lessening of enthusiasm at Berlin, where the atmosphere during the last two days was surcharged with exuberant rejoicing. The Berlin Vorwaerts rebukes its colleagues for what it calls their "exaggerated deductions" from the vague information available.

Russian Lines Reformed.

It is evident that Grand Duke Nicholas has drawn in a portion of the Russian front from the Lodz-Lissa line to reinforcements nearer Warsaw. There has been no admission from Petrograd, however, of any serious reverses in the field of operations along the Vistula river, such as must necessarily have preceded a German victory. It is regarded here as quite possible that the Teutonic allies have scored successes in some localities, although there is no information available as to their time or location.

The reverse which Petrograd says the Germans have suffered in the region of Mlawa, near the East Prussian frontier, is believed in London to have interfered with the operations of the Germans along the Vistula.

Lodz Reported Evacuated.

It is asserted unofficially at Petrograd that the German evacuation of Lodz, ending that city is of no greater strategic value to them than it was to the Russians.

Last night's official communication from the Russian war office stated that the Polish capital had been evacuated along the left bank of the Vistula, which have been in progress for several days.

Polish critics are saying that the situation in the Vistula region the present situation there is a very serious one. The Russian forces which are threatening the Polish capital are said to be moving to the south, around Cracow. The Russian forces which are threatening the Polish capital are said to be moving to the south, around Cracow. The Russian forces which are threatening the Polish capital are said to be moving to the south, around Cracow.

Allies Reported in Roulers.

London newspapers have revived the report that the allies have captured Roulers. In one of the most furiously contested regions of Flanders. Like the capture of Ypres, Roulers is a strategic point. About all that is known definitely of the situation in the west is that the allies are exerting steady pressure at the German line, and while advancing in some locations have suffered reverses in others.

The Chronicle says that "Roulers has been captured after fierce assaults on the German trenches." The Daily News publishes the following: "Reports from the front indicate that the allies have captured Roulers and that they are in possession of a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The capture of Roulers would mean a victory so important that an immediate official announcement probably would be made."

SAYS TEUTONS HAVE BEEN HALTED.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Times sends the following: "The enemy's third incursion into Galicia has been arrested on the very borders of the province. Some maneuvering on the part of Gen. Radko Dimitrieff's corps sufficed to check the invading column, although they crossed the Carpathians on a wide front extending between Wieliczka and the headwaters of the Dniester."

"No definite information has been forthcoming as yet regarding the new point of attack of the enemy. The Russian lines on the Bzura river are probably the line he will seek to deliver a blow further south, but it is not known whether this will be toward Warsaw or Kielce."

Belgian Editors Refuse To Resume Publication

AMSTERDAM, via London, December 19.—Efforts of Gen. von Bissing, the new German governor of Belgium, to induce the leading newspapers of Brussels and Antwerp to resume publication have proved to be futile.

The editors of these newspapers informed the governor that so long as Belgium's independence was not recognized and the German censorship continued the papers would not be published.

ITALY'S PREMIER DENIES REPORTED MOBILIZATION

ROME, December 19.—The senate adjourned yesterday after an unanimous manifestation in favor of peace. In the course of the session Premier Salandra expressed the hope that as 1815 had marked the conclusion of peace after the Napoleonic wars, so 1915 would be marked by a lasting peace in which Italy would acquire yet more glory and greatness.

Premier Salandra also declared absolutely false any announcement of Italy's mobilization.

Confident of Final Victory.

"All the enemy's efforts, however, can only stave off the final and unanimous Russian army in within a stone's throw of the Silesian border north of Cracow, which is the real pivot of all the operations now developing."

"The desperate flanking moves on the Bzura river and the Carpathians only serve to indicate that the Russians hold the pivot firmly, whence in good time they will sweep down into the city and advance into the heart of Germany."

The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent says: "Russian reinforcements are pouring to the front in Poland, and the issue in the fighting west of Warsaw depends upon which side can fling the larger weight in numbers into the battle line."

Berlin in Festive Array.

BERLIN, December 18, via The Hague and London, December 19 (delayed in transmission).—Berlin was still in festive array today, celebrating the reported victory in Poland, but the people experienced a shade of disappointment from the brevity of the official war bulletin, which failed to supply further details of the Polish engagement.

The newspapers point out this afternoon that the present developments in the eastern arena of the war will require several days to reach a stage where the net results can be approximately set forth.

In the meanwhile various rumors are in circulation concerning the very large number of prisoners taken by the Germans.

Rudolf von Valentini, chief of Emperor William's civil cabinet, answered a telegram from the East Prussian syndicate to the emperor, wrote as follows: "His majesty confidently trusts that the unwavering will to conquer with God's help will lead the fatherland through the present trying days to a happier future."

"(Signed) 'VALENTINI'."

TRAVEL COUPON

THIS COUPON AND 10 CENTS WILL ADMIT YOU TO THE Star-Robinson Travelogue, "CALIFORNIA AND THE FORTY-NINTH," CONVENTION HALL.

Note.—The Sunday Star's coupon has no value at the Sunday Travelogue.